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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

BURGE, LONDRA C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/925,163

Applicant(s)

KIRKWOOD ET AL.

Examiner

Londra C Burge

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/17/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed 11/29/2004 and IDS filed 2/17/2005.
2. Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 9 and 10 are independent claims. Claims 1-10 are original claims and claim 11-30 are newly added claims
3. This action has been made Final.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The Information Disclosure Statement file 2/17/2005 has been accepted by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 1-10 remain and 15, 20, 25 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrel et al. (herein after Ferrel) U.S. Patent No 5,907,837 filed 11/17/1995 in view of Beattie et al. (herein after Beattie) U.S. Patent No. 6,256,627 B1 filed 6/23/1998.**

In regard to independent claim 1, Ferrel discloses *receiving a request to generate an electronic document containing information responsive to a user query based on one or more information objects that are organized in one or more hierarchical trees, wherein the query*

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contains a concept and an information type the specifies the type of information, in association wit the concept, requested in the request (Ferrel Abstract i.e. information and document requests and search and Figure 8 and Col 24 Lines 12-40 i.e. information arranged in a hierarchal tree); searching a cache of information objects (Ferrel Col 28 Lines 30-35 i.e. results in a query cache); automatically creating the electronic document using the matching information objects and delivering the electronic document in response to the user query. (Ferrel Col 28 Lines 30-43 i.e. matching content objects and query results)

Ferrel does not specifically mention *to identify one or more rows that match the query concept and on or more rows that match the query information type; determining an intersection of the rows, yielding a result set of rows; retrieving matching information objects based on following index pointers in the rows of the result set.* However, Beattie mentions a query log organized into rows and each row stores a query and its associated search results (Beattie Col 11 Lines 49-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Beattie to Ferrel, providing Ferrel the benefit of having the results in rows for better organization on the information and results for the user.

Ferrel does not specifically mention *concept that specifies a term from the vocabulary.* However, Beattie mentions related words, texts and strings that are identified (Beattie Col 5 Lines 42-63). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Beattie to Ferrel, providing Ferrel the benefit of identifying words and text to ensure the correct information is logged.

In regard to dependent claim 2, Ferrel discloses *searching a result cache for a result row that is associated with a matching concept and matching information type; if searching the*

result cache yields no cache hits, searching a content cache of information objects. (Ferrel Col 28 Lines 30-43 and Col 28 Lines 59-67 and Col 29 Lines 1-7 i.e. cache results and not in the query cache)

Ferrel does not specifically mention *a first set of interim result rows having a matching associated concept and a second set of interim result rows having a matching associated information type*. However, Beattie mentions a query log organized into rows and each row stores a query and its associated search results (Beattie Col 11 Lines 49-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Beattie to Ferrel, providing Beattie the benefit of having the results in rows for better organization on the information and results for the user.

In regard to dependent claim 3, Ferrel discloses *wherein the hierarchical trees comprise a concept tree and a technology tree, and wherein each tree is organized ... having one or more relation types, wherein each relation type has one or more relation instances, wherein each relation instance has one or more relation participants, and wherein each relation participant is associated with one or more information objects.* (Ferrel Abstract i.e. information and document requests and search and Figure 8 and Col 24 Lines 12-40 i.e. information arranged in a hierarchal tree) (Ferrel Col 44 Lines 44-67 and 45 Lines 1-62 i.e. system and Col 28 Lines 30-43 and Col 28 Lines 59-67 and Col 29 Lines 1-7, Col 11 Lines 29-37 and Col 30 Lines 41-63)

Ferrel does not specifically mention *wherein each tree is organized as a vocabulary node*. However, Beattie mentions a vocabulary of the subject matter searched (Beattie Col 1 Lines 60-63 and Col 2 Lines 23-27). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Beattie to Ferrel, providing Beattie the benefit of having

a vocabulary to match the content search, which would make the document search quicker for the user.

In regard to dependent claim 4, Ferrel discloses *further comprising the step of caching the result cache*. (Ferrel Col 28 Lines 30-43 and Col 28 Lines 59-67 and Col 29 Lines 1-7 i.e. cache results)

Ferrel does not specifically *set of rows in the result*. However, Beattie mentions a query log organized into rows and each row stores a query and its associated search results (Beattie Col 11 Lines 49-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Beattie to Ferrel, providing Beattie the benefit of having the results in rows for better organization on the information and results for the user.

In regard to dependent claim 5, Ferrel discloses *further comprising the step of providing the information objects to a delivery engine that generates the electronic document based on the information objects and delivers the electronic document in response to the user query*. (Ferrel Abstract and Col 28 Lines 30-43)

In regard to dependent claim 6, Ferrel discloses *receiving the user query at a distributed cache manager; selecting one of a plurality of information object cache servers to process the user query and generate the electronic document; forwarding the user query to the selected one of the plurality of information object cache servers*. (Ferrel Col 28 Lines 30-43 and Col 28 Lines 59-67 and Col 29 Lines 1-7)

In regard to dependent claim 7, Ferrel discloses *receiving the user query from a delivery engine at a distributed cache manager; selecting one of a plurality of information object cache servers to process the user query and generate the electronic document; forwarding the*

user query to the selected one of the plurality of information object cache servers; providing the information objects to a delivery engine that generates the electronic document based on the information objects and delivers the electronic document in response to the user query. (Ferrel Col 28 Lines 30-43 and Col 28 Lines 59-67 and Col 29 Lines 1-7) (Ferrel Abstract and Col 28 Lines 30-43)

In regard to independent claims 8 and 9, claims 8 and 9 in addition to the following reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale. (Ferrel Col 44 Lines 44-67 and 45 Lines 1-62 i.e. system)

In regard to independent claim 10, Ferrel discloses *a computer-readable medium for storing a plurality of information chunks in a content cache, each chunk of the plurality of information chunks retrieved by a directory address; and a plurality of data structures describing atomic concepts and a plurality of data structures describing relationships among the atomic concepts in a concept cache (Ferrel Col 44 Lines 44-67 and 45 Lines 1-62 i.e. system and Col 28 Lines 30-43 and Col 28 Lines 59-67 and Col 29 Lines 1-7, Col 11 Lines 29-37 and Col 30 Lines 41-63); and one or more processors configured as an interface for managing the plurality of information chunks in the content cache, managing the plurality of data structures in the concept cache, and arranging content on the Web page based at least in part on data in the concept cache (Ferrel Col 44 Lines 44-67 and 45 Lines 1-62 i.e. system and Col 28 Lines 30-43 and Col 28 Lines 59-67 and Col 29 Lines 1-7, Col 11 Lines 29-37 and Col 30 Lines 41-63 and Col 2 Lines 65-67 and Col 3 Lines 1-5); one or more sequences of instructions in the computer-readable medium, which instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of: receiving a request to generate an electronic*

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document containing information responsive to a user query based on one or more information objects that are organized in one or more hierarchical trees, wherein the query contains a concept and an information type (Ferrel Abstract i.e. information and document requests and search and Figure 8 and Col 24 Lines 12-40 i.e. information arranged in a hierarchal tree); *searching a cache of information objects* (Ferrel Col 28 Lines 30-35 i.e. results in a query cache); *automatically creating the electronic document using the matching information objects and delivering the electronic document in response to the user query.* (Ferrel Abstract i.e. information and document requests and search and Figure 8 and Col 24 Lines 12-40 i.e. information arranged in a hierarchal tree)

Ferrel does not specifically mention *determining an intersection of the rows, yielding a result set of rows; retrieving matching information objects based on following index pointers in the rows of the result set and to identify one or more rows that match the query concept and the query information type.* However, Beattie mentions a query log organized into rows and each row stores a query and its associated search results (Beattie Col 11 Lines 49-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Beattie to Ferrel, providing Beattie the benefit of having the results in rows for better organization on the information and results for the user.

Ferrel does not specifically mention *among names in an enterprise-specific vocabulary.* However, Beattie mentions a vocabulary of the subject matter searched (Beattie Col 1 Lines 60-63 and Col 2 Lines 23-27). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Beattie to Ferrel, providing Beattie the benefit of having a

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vocabulary to match the content search, which would make the document search quicker for the user.

Ferrel does not specifically mention *concept that specifies a term from the vocabulary*. However, Beattie mentions related words, texts and strings that are identified (Beattie Col 5 Lines 42-63). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Beattie to Ferrel, providing Ferrel the benefit of identifying words and text to ensure the correct information is logged.

In regard to dependent claim 15, Ferrel discloses *wherein the information type contained in the query is associated with a section of the electronic document*. (Anderson Abstract i.e. different categories are identified

In regard to dependent claim 20, 25 and 30, claims 20, 25 and 30 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 15 and are rejected along the same rationale.

7. Claims 11-14, 16-20, 21-24 and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrel et al. (herein after Ferrel) U.S. Patent No 5,907,837 filed 11/17/1995 in view of Anderson et al. (herein after Anderson) U.S. Patent No. 6,510,434 B1 filed 12/29/1999.

In regard to dependent claim 11, Ferrel does not specifically disclose *wherein the concept contained in the query is regarding a product of the enterprise*. However, Anderson mentions a product of a business (Anderson Col 8 Line 28-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Anderson to Ferrel, providing

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Ferrel the benefit of identifying the product of an enterprise to ensure the product is related to the business before displaying to user.

In regard to dependent claim 12, Ferrel does not specifically disclose *wherein the concept contained in the query is regarding a technology of the enterprise*. However, Anderson mentions a technology of the business such as XML and Java (Anderson Col 7 Lines 18-63 and Col 14 Lines 39-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Anderson to Ferrel, providing Ferrel the benefit of using technology for the enterprise such as XML and Java, which are compatible with many computers.

In regard to dependent claim 13, Ferrel does not specifically disclose *wherein the concept contained in the query is regarding a service provided by the enterprise*. However, Anderson mentions a service that is provided by the business (Anderson Col 12 Lines 21-31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Anderson to Ferrel, providing Ferrel the benefit of identifying the service provided by the business to ensure the user is viewing the correct information.

In regard to dependent claim 14, Ferrel does not specifically disclose *wherein the concept contained in the query is regarding business of the enterprise*. However, Anderson mentions what the business is (Anderson Col 12 Lines 21-31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Anderson to Ferrel, providing Ferrel the benefit of identifying the business to ensure the user is viewing the correct information.

In regard to dependent claim 16, 21 and 26, claims 16, 21 and 26 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 11 and are rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 17, 22 and 27, claims 17, 22 and 27 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 12 and are rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 18, 23 and 28, claims 18, 23 and 28 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 13 and are rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 19, 24 and 29, claims 19, 24 and 29 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 14 and are rejected along the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The applicant argues a query that contains a concept and information type is not disclosed by Ferrel (Page 10 Para 1). However, Ferrel mention that the background of the invention pertains to querying and retrieving information (Ferrel Col 1 Lines 10-15).

The applicant also argues that a cache search is also not disclosed (Page 10 Para 1). However, Ferrel mentions a caching process (Ferrel Col 44 Lines 44-67 and 45 Lines 1-62 i.e. system and Col 28 Lines 30-43 and Col 28 Lines 59-67 and Col 29 Lines 1-7, Col 11 Lines 29-37 and Col 30 Lines 41-63 and Col 2 Lines 65-67 and Col 3 Lines 1-5).

The applicant also argues there is no teaching of pointer (Page 10 Para 3). However, Beattie mentions a query log organized into rows and each row stores a query and its associated search results (Beattie Col 11 Lines 49-56). Ferrel mentions the concepts of pointers or pointing to areas (Ferrel Col 22 Lines 29-37).

Conclusion

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

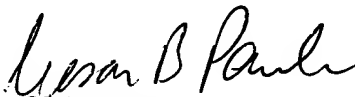
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Londra C Burge whose telephone number is (571) 272-4122. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LCB
4/12/05


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PRIMARY EXAMINER